GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

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IMAGES OF PREHISTORIC DAYS FOUND IN CHILE

The stone figure at the left was unearthed in an underground habitation south of Calama, on the old Incan highway between Cuzco and Copiapo. The costume, splendidly preserved, gives us the dress of a remote period, probably antedating Incan rule. The image at the right is of silver, and was found by a chinchilla hunter on the pampas of northern Chile, not far from the Bolivian frontier. It is three inches in height and represents a woman of the ruling class. The colors of the feather-work and the vicuna wool garments are well preserved.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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Nature's Gifts and Caprices in South America

AN INTERESTING bird's-eye view of South America's unusual geographical features is given by John Oliver LaGorce, vice-president of the National Geographic Society, in an address before the Third Pan-American Scientific Congress, to which he is a United States delegate. The Congress is meeting in Lima, Peru, from December 20 to January 7.

"Nature has been prodigal of her blessings to South America—blessings which, in some instances, are just being revealed," Mr. LaGorce said.

"A rich asset of our eastern seaboard of North America has been its rugged, indented coast line, which affords sheltering harbors from Maine to Florida. South America's coast line is more regular; but she has what now is proving an even greater boon, navigable rivers of enormous length—Nature-made canals which offer ready transportation to regions of some of her richest products.

Long, Ready-Made Waterways

"Our Mississippi and its tributaries have 17,000 miles of navigable waters, the major portion of them exceedingly shallow. The Amazon and its tributaries have twice as many miles, and several times as many miles capable of accommodating ocean-going steamers, which, for example, ascend 2,300 miles to Iquitos, while vessels of 14-foot draft can ascend nearly 500 miles beyond that point.

"South America takes that for granted; but we of the United States marvel when we realize that it is as though one could travel on a ship of 14-foot draft from New York direct to Salt Lake City by way of Chicago and Cheyenne.

"The National Geographic Society's map of South America shows these rivers and the head of navigation of each. A glance at this map reveals that South America has the finest system of inland waterways in the world.

Wonder Tale of Continent's Future

"On this same map is revealed the wonder tale of South America's future—her future of commercial importance, because she holds so much wealth in natural resources which the world needs.

"There are delineated the vast extent of the rubber forests of the Amazon basin; the regions whence Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Colombia, and Venezuela draw their valuable exports of cattle, hides, mutton, and wool; the nitrate lands of Chile and Peru; the rich coffee, sugar, and cacao plantations of Brazil, the Guianas, Venezuela, and Colombia; and the silver, copper, gold, iron, and tin deposits of various countries.

"The Andes are the Alps of South America—only on a tremendously large scale. Everything in South America seems scaled large, especially in contrast to classic Old World standards.

A Land of Ample Elbowroom

"Your continent has twice the area of Europe, yet your people number only about two-thirds the combined population of France and Italy. You have plenty of elbowroom in your continent of natural wonders, rich resources, and progressive governments.

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CAMEL CARAVAN, WITH SUPPLIES, DESCENDING KALGAN PASS

Several caravan routes unite at Kalgan, which is a gateway to Mongolia and a great trading center for China and Siberia. More than 100,000 camels are said to be used in transporting tea alone from Kalgan to Siberia. In the internal caravan trade some 1,200,000 camels and 300,000 ox-carts are employed. At Kalgan exists the very earliest, original wall, built by the Emperor Chin, contemporary of Hannibal (see Bulletin No. 2).

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Kalgan: A Frontier Town of China

KALGAN, China, recently was the scene of a mutiny among Chinese troops stationed there. Earlier this year it suffered from disastrous floods.

Kalgan lies 125 miles northwest of Peking close against the Great Wall that was to keep out the Mongols and other nomad enemies of China. But one needs only a hasty glance around the streets after reaching Kalgan to realize that the Wall no longer fulfills its function; for a large part of the population of the city is made up of Mongols. This is a frontier town of China—"the gateway to Mongolia," it is called—and the sheepskin garments of Mongol teamsters and caravan workers tell the story just as the chaps of cowboys marked our own frontier cities a few years ago.

Where Oil Is Sold in Baskets

If you lived in Kalgan, China, your winter's wood supply would consist of several dozen carts, knocked to pieces for the purpose. You would buy your wine and oil and vinegar in baskets instead of jugs; and another basket would replace the old oaken bucket as a container for your drinking water.

Kalgan has several ties with America's old West. It is the end of the railway toward Mongolia, and to this rail-head are driven great herds of cattle and sheep from the plains, as long-horns were driven to Wichita, Kansas, and other rail points a generation past.

200,000 Camel Loads of Tea

It is as a caravan center for the trade of Central Asia that Kalgan is most noted, however. Before the World War between 100,000 and 200,000 camels were kept busy carrying tea from Kalgan into Mongolia, largely for Siberia. The Siberian demand has dwindled, but still thousands of shaggy humped creatures carry their loads of tea off to the northwest. To Kalgan are brought large quantities of hides, leather, wool, furs and other products of the plains. Much of this freight is brought in bullock carts made in the simplest and crudest way. Having served their purpose these carts are knocked to pieces and sold for firewood, thus affording the caravan owners a not-to-be-neglected by-product.

The people of Kalgan capitalize their position as the terminus of a great caravan route. They make harness saddles and hemp rope for use as traces. The oddest industry, however, is the manufacture of willow baskets as containers for liquids. The baskets, inevitably somewhat coarsely woven because of the materials, are lined with tough, varnished paper and are as water-tight as though made of metal or pottery.

Automobiles Conquer Desert

Kalgan is no longer dependent on camels, bullocks and horses as transportation agencies. A few years ago an automobile line was established across the Gobi desert from Kalgan to Urga, capital of Mongolia, 700 miles away, and was so successful that other motor cars have been added. The Gobi Desert, like the "Great American Desert," has been found to be largely a matter of imagi-

"So towering and so extensive are your Andes Mountains that if all the highlands were plowed down and all the lowlands were filled up, the continent would be a plateau 1,312 feet above sea level, and 820 feet of this would be represented by the material which constitutes the Andes.

"The physical geography of South America is fascinating. It is distinguished by the absence of clearly defined watersheds between its great river basins. From the Orinoco delta to the Rio de la Plata estuary there is almost a continuous overlapping of these basins. In southern Venezuela, where that country thrusts a political peninsula into northern Brazil, below the town of Esmeralda, the waters of the upper Orinoco suddenly decide to part company, some of them reaching the Amazon and the sea through the Brazos Casiquiare and the others forcing their way to the lower Orinoco over the rapids of the eroded mountain barriers at Maipures and Atures.

A Bird's Wing May Change Water's Flow

"Although the communications between the Amazon and the Rio de la Plata basins are not so marked as those between the Amazon and the Orinoco basins, there are numerous places where the flip of a bird's wing, the direction of the wind, the abundance of local rains, the formation of a sand-bar, or the slip of a bit of land, may determine the destiny of a drop of water, whether it shall flow past Para or Buenos Aires.

"The United States and South American countries have always manifested their friendship by their trade. In a recent year Argentina bought three-eighths of her imports from our country; Brazil spent in the United States approximately one-half of her expenditure for imports, and Chile gave the United States practically the same proportion of her foreign purchases. Colombia was an equally good customer in proportion to her total importations, while Peru gave the United States nearly two-thirds of her total foreign orders. More than two-thirds of Venezuela's foreign business was done with American houses and, in Ecuador, the proportion was 45 per cent.

"In our turn we bought more than half of the exports of Chile, Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela, nearly half of those of Brazil, and nearly a third of those of Argentina.

"To the geographer these figures tell far more than a profitable business relationship; they betoken a mutual dependency based on mutual needs. It is a happy geographic fact that our two continents, thrown into close proximity, need each other and, in so many ways, complement each other."

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FUGITIVES SWIMMING TO A FORTRESS ON INFLATED SKINS

One might reconstruct the entire system of military tactics of Babylonian and Assyrian kings from the records in bas-relief left by them on slabs of stone. (See Bulletin No. 3.)

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Mesopotamia: Where Tradition and a New Name Overshadow the Interesting Life of To-day

EDEN, or the original home of man, by whatever name it may be called, continues to arouse speculation. A recent suggestion places it on a tropical continent said to have sunk hundreds of centuries ago to the bottom of the Pacific.

Mesopotamia (Iraq) still ranks in highest esteem as the traditional land of Eden and Ararat. There also originated the religions of Christ and Mohammed, and one would suspect that it would be well known. However, the Mesopotamia of 1925 suffers from being almost completely overburdened by its historic setting.

Many a school child who can relate the nocturnal adventures of Harun-al-Rashid in ancient Bagdad never heard of the Star Worshippers of the present-day Kingdom of Iraq. And yet this strange people, who turn to the North Star to pray, who must be baptized every Sunday, and have a sacred book where they may begin at either end and read toward the middle, are just as picturesque.

If he were shown a picture of shipping on the Tigris River this child would think the rhyme, "Three men in a tub," had come true. The small boats are gooffas, huge round baskets, from five to ten feet in diameter, with their wicker-work tarred to make them water-tight. Then there are the rafts with blown-up goatskins attached to give them buoyancy.

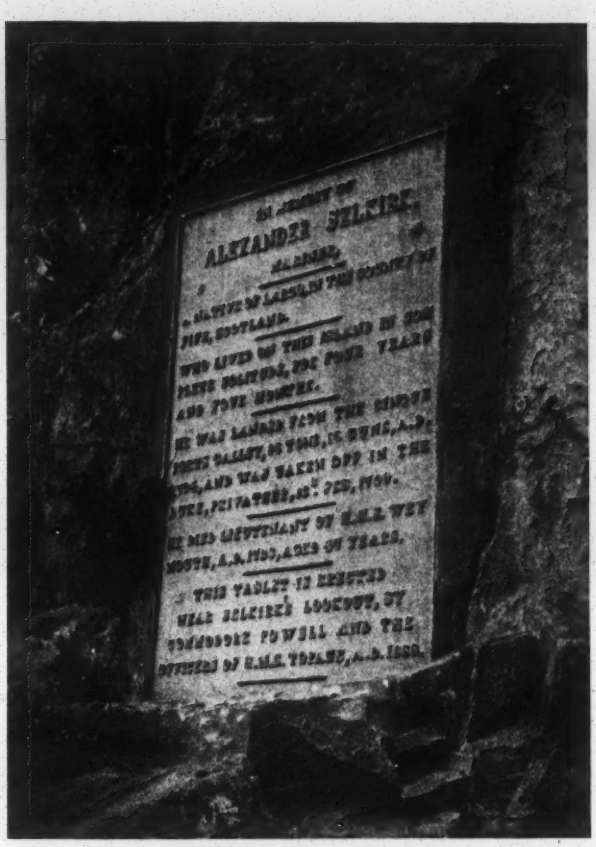
Modern Bagdad would cause even the man who knew what to expect to rub his eyes. A city is a city all over Europe and America, with certain features that can be relied upon. With one major variation, such as canals instead of streets, a Venice may stand out as a shining exception. But when you enter Bagdad you must accustom yourself to interminable mud walls more monotonous than any standardized row of houses you have seen, narrow and deserted thoroughfares, dogs always under foot and, by night, only the starlight to guide your way.

A Land of Dates

Mesopotamia is a land of dates; both of the historical and edible varieties. Date trees rise above the courtyards where Bagdad family life is shut from your view, and these trees, along with cupolas and minarets, form a skyline that typifies the religion and the economic life of thousands of present-day natives. For the valleys of the Tigris and the Euphrates, and the muddy banks of Shat el Arab, into which they merge, supply the four corners of the earth with dates. The Arabs of this region pick and pack and practically live on dates.

About a million and a half of Iraq's population are Arabs. The rest are Persians, Kurds, Indians and Turks. Now the offhand opinion might well be that the Arabs, because they are dominant, would be a nucleus around which a stable government might form. The difficulty so far is that these Arabs are divided into diverse groups, effectually separated by a wide variety of religious beliefs. It has been said that there are more roads to Heaven in Iraq, as well as the opposite way, than anywhere else excepting the United States. The

nation or at least of faulty nomenclature. The grass lands of the southern Gobi almost meet the even more luxuriant prairies of the north. Only a narrow strip is really barren. The long projected Mongolian railway would probably extend from Kalgan to Urga along the route the automobile mail and passenger line now traverses.



IN MEMORY OF ROBINSON CRUSOE

This memorial slab to Alexander Selkirk, immortalized as Robinson Crusoe, is on the largest of the Juan Fernandez group of islands, lying 260 miles southwest of Valparaiso. Here, in 1704, Selkirk, a Scottish sailor, was dropped ashore, at his own request, from an English galley.

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Shoes, and Gowns, and Beards—of the Egyptians

REOPENING of the Tomb of Tutankhamen also renews interest in a funeral of 3,300 years ago which has a marked fascination for people of 1925. The significance to the student of the tomb's discovery was its disclosure of the world's first known era of spiritual and intellectual emancipation. An immediate effect of the discovery, felt by millions of people who had only slight interest in its historical import, was the creation of new fashions.

Egyptians of more than a thousand years before Christ had little idea that their magnificent burial of a young king would set designers to work on new styles of women's garments in 1925 and cause many anxious hours among dye and textile manufacturers.

The apparel worn by modish Egyptian ladies was artistic and when the tomb is reopened many of the gowns which looked a bit ludicrous at first will seem fashionable.

"One-piece Dress" Worn in Egypt

The long one-piece dress so much in vogue to-day is similar to that worn by the women of ancient Egypt. The words of an account describing the dresses worn by Egyptian women more than three thousand years ago might easily be mistaken for lines from a modern newspaper story of clothes worn by the women of fashion at some smart affair: "The dresses of women consisted of a loose robe reaching to the ankles, with tight or full sleeves, fastened at the neck with a string."

Over these robes they sometimes wore a sort of petticoat fastened at the waist by a girdle. The women of the higher classes secured the loose dress at the waist with a colored sash.

The Gowns of Queens

Women had been wearing dresses of that type to some extent, but with the advent of Tutankhamen modistes reverted to the patterns of cloth used by the women of his court. Our old chronicle also said, "The gown was of richly colored stuff, presenting a great variety of patterns, not unlike our modern chintzes, the most elegant of which were selected for the robes of deities and the dresses of queens." And modern belles reverted to the wiles of the women of Egypt among whom we count the most alluring and wily lady in history.

The Egyptian "flapper" was demure in one particular. She wore her back hair in a number of long plaits, with perhaps a plait or two hanging down with soft loose ends in front of each shoulder. But the modern girl is a positive amateur with her bandoline fishhook curls on her cheeks; her Egyptian prototype took these short strands and interwove them with longer ones into corkscrew curls which hung down in front of her earrings.

Wore Huge Earrings

Her earrings, too, were particularly large and elaborate. Sometimes they were large, round, single hoops of gold two inches in diameter and larger. Royal ladies sometimes wore a coiled golden asp, whose body was set in precious stones and the tip of whose tail passed through the holes in the ears.

Moslem sects are far less harmonious than the denominations of our Christian Church, and many of the latter are represented. Besides these are found gradations of Oriental philosophic schools and pagan beliefs, ranging from Buddhism to Star Worship and Devil Worship.

A BARGE-LOAD OF COPPER

One of the copper deposits in northern Chile is said to be the largest of its kind in the world, with the possible exception of a Peruvian copper property not yet thoroughly prospected. Nitrate and copper to-day, and manganese, perhaps, to-morrow, guarantee Chile's economic place in the world's market.

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From Latvia to Esthonia by Air

FLYING as a passenger is itself relatively new; winging one's way with suitcase and duffel-bag from Latvia to Esthonia is doubly a new experience, for these two countries have come into independent existence only since the World War. Yet there is a regular air line between Riga and Tallinn. A member of The Geographic's staff, who was a recent air voyager between the two cities, writes:

"A few bumps, then our left wing dips, Riga tilts up on edge with the steeples bent over, and we are off. The steeples seem to be retreating into the ground. A lake flashes under us, and what we know to be huge rafts of wood upon its waters look like matches floating in a saucer.

Can See Beneath Sea

"Riga becomes a gray huddle beyond the green of trees and the tawny sand masses. Pine forests appear and seem like the corn of our mid-west seen through dark glasses.

"Yellow sand blotches, blue-gray spots of water, and green forest masses scud by below. Rivers wind across the countryside like great silver snakes; caught in their meanderings are cultivated fields with large houses, red-tiled, and small ones, inconspicuously thatched.

"We glide out over the sea; along its shore every ripple of sand beneath the brown-green water is disclosed to our vertical gaze. Tiny toy-like boats steam along with Lilliputian wakes behind them. Again we are over the land, and now broken clouds stencil their patterns on green and gold of forest and sand. Now and then little towns glide beneath, all surrounded by crazy-quilt fields.

Farms Carved From Swamp

"Farther on are swamps. The whole coast line is evidently soggy, but there are fine fields inside. Still farther inside are evergreen forests, and beyond those more brown swamps. The plowed fields in this moist region are marked out with crossed drainage ditches like a tablet of chocolate.

"But all to be seen as one flies over Latvia does not smack of peaceful pursuits. Below in a curve of the shore gun positions defended by trench lines are plainly visible. Now and then one catches sight of huge battlemented manor houses that might withstand a siege.

"Parnu, quite a town at the mouth of a river, slips by below and we realize that we have crossed the Esthonian frontier. Here, too, are the chocolate squares drained by tinfoil ditches; the brown swamp regions; the lush green patches.

Architecture Wasted on Airmen

"Tallinn, our objective, shows up in the distance, a smoky pancake beyond a 'Lake Superior.' Soon its steeples are visible. But though airplanes are unequalled for a broad general view of a country, they play tricks with arch-

UMI

Gloves were worn by the Egyptian men as early as the 18th dynasty, but there seems to be no evidence that women wore them at all. A pair of 16-button length were found in the tomb of Tutankhamen for his use in the future world.

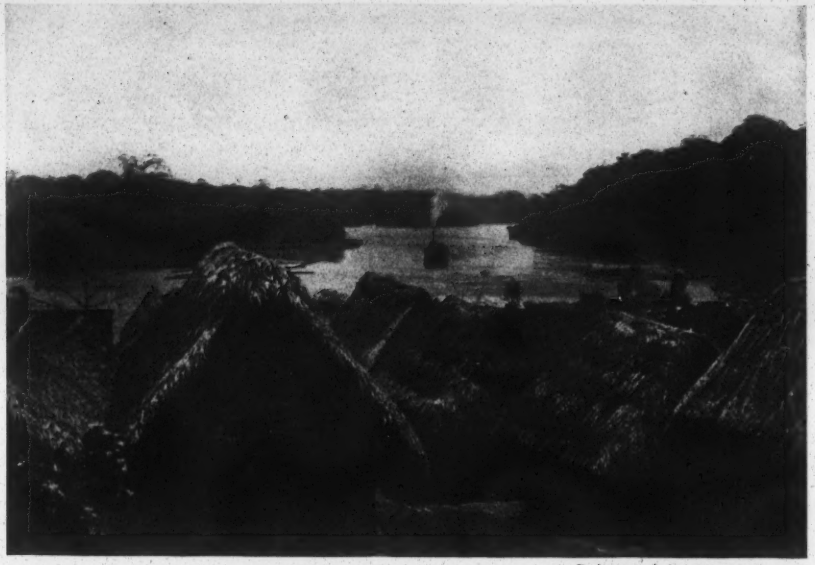
Egyptian women, however, wore a great many rings, crowding any number of them on the third finger of the left hand, which even in those days was considered the ring finger par excellence, because of the honor thrust upon it at the wedding ceremony. They also wore necklaces of gold, or of beads of various kinds, usually with a drop of some kind in the center.

Shoes of Red and Blue

One of our recent fads—that of wearing red, green, or blue shoes of the sandal type—is our latest reversion to Egyptian modes. Egyptian ladies were particularly fussy about their sandals. These were often woven of palm leaves and papyrus stalks, but were sometimes cut out of leather and lined with cloth. Contempt for an individual was expressed by painting his picture on the inside of the sandals, so that he might be trodden upon.

One practice in the East to-day and among theatrical people in America traces its origin directly to the ancient Egyptian custom of staining the eyelids and brows with a moistened powder of a dark color, which was thought to increase the beauty of the eyes.

Prototypes of the modern ballet at the courts of the Pharaohs wore loose flowing robes of finest texture and transparent quality which were fastened at the waist by girdles adorned with beads, or ornaments of various colors. On many of the friezes of the temples the outline of the transparent robe has been effaced. The Egyptians, like the Greeks, represented the contour of the figure as if seen through the dress.



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A VIEW ON THE ORINOCO RIVER, VENEZUELA

This great river, which is approximately 1,500 miles long, and is supposed to have 436 tributaries, has never been thoroughly explored, although in the days of the Spanish conquistadores it was the scene of many voyages of discovery in search of El Dorado. It flows into the sea through a delta which is 700 squares miles in area, and so little above sea-level that great tracts of it are periodically flooded. The influence of the tides can be seen in April, when the water is lowest, as far up the river as Ciudad Bolivar, 373 miles from its mouth. Although it presents a magnificent waterway, the Orinoco is but little used for steamboat [illegible]ic. (See Bulletin No. 1.)

itecture. One thing is certain, Christopher Wren and the steeple builders wrought not for the airman but for the pedestrian.

"We head slowly down; we coast; we tip up a little and swing to the side. Watery trenches and a quarry seem to reach for us. But there is the open landing field. A slight bump, and we are safe in another land."

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THE BATH OF AN INCA PRINCESS

This relic of an ancient civilization is at Ollantaytambo, Peru, near the 1915 headquarters of the National Geographic Society expedition which revealed the wonders of Machu Picchu, pre-Columbian city of hanging gardens and a remarkable people (see Bulletin No. 1).